



INDIAN EDUCATION RESOURCE
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BUSINESS & LABOR
EXHIBIT NO. 6
DATE APR 3-13-09
BILL NO. HB 390

Members of the Senate Committee on Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs:

My name is Megkian Doyle and I am writing today to ask you to support House Bill 390 and vote "yes" to license birth centers. My husband and I are both doctoral candidates at Montana State University. We are well-educated individuals who make a conscious effort to be informed consumers and selecting the best option for the birth of our children is one area where we did considerable research. Through our research we came to understand that having our children out-of-hospital would be statistically safer for both mother and child. We studied the history of birth in America and are very concerned about the trends in medicine that remove choices from intelligent individuals and place patients in unnecessary danger largely due to economic and political practices that are not supported by positive research. I am currently an employee of the College of Nursing and am immersed in the latest research regarding patient care and I believe that significant evidence exists showing out-of-hospital, midwife-attended births to be more successful than in-hospital births. The education of midwives rivals that of our best nurses and in fact, because of the specialized nature of their trade, I believe that licensed midwives have a more comprehensive clinical experience than graduates of either our nursing or our medical programs. Therefore I consider House Bill 390 a means of ensuring quality control for out-of-hospital births attended by extremely well-trained specialists.

On the personal level, my two out-of-hospital births were experiences that empowered my husband and me as parents and as supporters of one another in our marriage. Because we took the initiative to research our choices for medical care, we have learned how to make confident decisions about the health of our family. I take to heart what Thomas Jefferson said in his discussion of American citizens. He said, "I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their own control with a wholesome discretion (if they are not able to make an intelligent choice about their own medical care), the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education" as my husband and I have done.

In light of the democratic values of our nation, again I urge you to give parents the opportunity to make empowered choices by voting "yes" to House Bill 390.

Sincerely,
Megkian Doyle